

Approval of Communication Unit Workgroup Recommendations

Communication Leader (COML) Recognition Program for Arizona

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- **Workgroup Activities**
- **Public Comments**
- **Summary of Recommendations**
- **Discussion; Possible Action**
- **Next Steps**



Workgroup Activities

- The Communications Unit Workgroup was formed at our August 12, 2009 meeting.
- The Workgroup consists of the following members and staff supporters:
 - o Jesse Cooper, Phoenix Police Department
 - o Jason Hatchett, Guardian Medical Transport
 - o Dan Wills
 - o Mike Worrell, Phoenix Fire
 - o Michael Todd, PSIC
 - o Lisa Dee Meyerson, PSIC
 - o Emilie Sundie, PSIC



Workgroup & SIEC/PSCC

- The Workgroup provided Status Updates and requested input from the SIEC on a Communication Leader program (October 14, 2009 and January 19, 2010).
- SIEC co-chairs provided updates to the PSCC regarding workgroup activities (Sept 2009, Jan 2010 & Apr 2010).
- The Workgroup provided written recommendations to the SIEC at its March 16, 2010 meeting accompanied by a presentation and discussion of those recommendations.
- The resulting written recommendations were posted to the web and sent to interested parties for comment.



Public Comments

- Wildland Fire COML and All Hazards COML differ and should be treated differently - concurred with by Workgroup resulting in separate process defined for All Hazards
- Question re: Extent to which AZ should Align with National Recommendations – Workgroup favored close alignment
- Requirement for Taskbook sign-off within 3 years of class & whether that is sufficient time - With experience from 3 years before the class taken into account, this is actually 6 years and workgroup felt this was sufficient
- Requirement to Maintain Currency and Have Renewal of Recognition – the workgroup felt this was very important



ICS All Hazards COML Overview

The Communications Unit Leader (COML) is a position under the Logistics Section of the Incident Command System (ICS).

The COML develops plans for effective use of incident communications equipment and facilities, manages the distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel and coordinates the installation and testing of communications equipment.

COMLs are important during all-hazards emergency operations, as they significantly improve communications across multiple radio systems, disciplines, jurisdictions and agencies responding to a wide variety of incident types.



Proposed AZ COML Classifications

<i>Candidate Title</i>	<i>Candidate Description</i>	<i>Relationship to Credentialing System</i>
<i>Communications Leader Trainee (COML Trainee)</i>	<i>Has completed COML Training</i>	<i>COML Training Certificate on file with the PSIC Office</i>
<i>Communications Unit Leader Candidate (COML Candidate)</i>	<i>Has completed COML Training and is actively progressing through Taskbook Completion</i>	<i>COML Training Certificate on file with the PSIC Office along with the Candidate's notification that COML Taskbook work is in progress</i>
<i>Arizona Regional Communications Unit Leader (Regional COML)</i>	<i>Has completed COML Training and Taskbook</i>	<i>COML Training Certificate , Agency Certification and completed Taskbook on file with the PSIC Office; Entered in the resource database as a COML</i>
<i>Arizona Statewide Communications Unit Leader (Statewide COML)</i>	<i>A Regional COML who has completed the additional training and tasks specified for designation as a Statewide COML</i>	<i>COML Training Certificate , Agency Certification, completed Taskbook and documentation of continuing education and experience on file with the PSIC Office; Entered in the resource database as both a Regional and Statewide COML</i>



Guiding Principles

1. The Federal Government has left it up to each state to determine how its COMLs are certified or recognized
2. Requirements for COMLs in Arizona should be compatible with national recommendations and best practices
3. COML candidates are **certified** to be qualified for their position by their respective agencies
4. Agency-certified COMLs can subsequently be **recognized** as Arizona Regional COMLs by a central review process managed by the SIEC.
5. Arizona Regional COMLs are equivalent to All-Hazards COMLs, as set forth by the Federal Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications
6. Centralized records will be maintained for Arizona Regional COMLs by PSIC.



Centralized Review and Records

Workgroup recommends a centralized review and record keeping process in order to:

- Apply consistent standards for statewide recognition of agency-certified COMLs.
- Allow development and maintenance of an Incident Command System (ICS) COML Resource List for Arizona
- Facilitate offering opportunities for participation in communications-focused exercises and planned events
- Facilitate delivery of continuing education



Regional COML Recommendations

1. Arizona Regional COML Recognition
2. Changes in Agency Affiliation
3. Renewal of the Arizona Regional COML designation
4. Continuing Education
5. Submitting, maintaining and referencing Arizona Regional COML records

Discussion on Workgroup Recommendations

Possible Approval



Next Steps

- If approved, these recommendations will be brought to the PSCC for approval at its July 20th meeting.
- The Recognition process will then be placed on the PSIC website and sent out to all interested parties.
- PSIC will include information regarding the recognition program in its outreach presentations.
- The Workgroup will work on strategies to support interested parties in getting their Taskbooks signed off.
- The PSIC will set up a database for tracking COMLs and documents to be issued to recognized COMLs.

Questions?

Discussion

